

THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.



Thursday, March 9, 1905.

If the much touted Commissioner Garfield will undertake to give the oil trust as clear a bill of health as he has managed to extend to the beef trust he may name his own compensation.

The big packers—the beef trust—are pleased with the report that Commissioner Garfield has made about their business. That may have been one of the objects the commissioner had in mind when he prepared the document.

The Washington correspondents tell us that during the inaugural ball last Saturday evening "glasses were emptied by representatives of 48 governments in honor of Miss Alice Roosevelt." But the glasses would have been emptied any way, so the most honored young lady in the land can construe the intended compliment as she likes.

A member of the British parliament has announced that he intends to introduce a bill making radical alteration of the procedure in divorce cases. The chief feature will provide that such proceedings shall no longer be held in public. He holds that the public does not benefit materially by having details of divorce cases published in the newspapers, and that, on the other hand, public morality loses a good deal.

The New York Evening Post says: "That the president should have run foul of the constitution in his attempt to make Senator Quarles a federal judge is a mere incident—humiliating to Mr. Roosevelt, but not vital. The main interest of the appointment lies in its bearings on the factional politics of Wisconsin." These appointments agree very well with the reports that in spite of the fact that he and the president are both fighters of trusts and curbers of railroads La Follette will find the atmosphere at the White House not altogether congenial when he arrives at Washington.

Senator Depew recently gave utterance to this outburst of philosophy: "The man who laughs is a doctor without a diploma. His face does more good in a sick room than a bushel of powders or a gallon of bitter draughts. People are always glad to see him. Their hands instinctively go out half way to meet his grasp, while they turn involuntarily from the clammy touch of the dyspeptic who speaks in the groaning key. He laughs you out of your faults, while you never dream of being offended with him, and you never know what a pleasant world you are living in until he points out the sunny streaks in its pathway."

A Political Boomerang.

The investigation of the books of the county officials of Christian county who have held office within the past 15 years, which was completed a few days ago, showed a shortage of a little over \$6,000 for the entire period investigated. This, it has been contended, is not a large amount, taking into consideration the length of time over which the investigation extended, the number of officials included, and the amount of money handled by these officials during the 15 years; and the further fact that half the amount was against one man, E. J. Rhodes, whose shortage was well known and discounted before the investigation was instituted. The investigation was very thorough. It was begun last year, in consequence of wholesale charges of corruption, made in the interests of the republican candidates for the county offices, for use in the last campaign. The county board of supervisors, in response to these charges, hired an expert whose time has been employed ever since in an examination of the books of the various officials. The State Register says:

"While the charges of corruption were instigated by the republicans, and doubtless intended by them to be a good enough Morgan until after the election, the result of the investigation has proven creditable to the democratic county officials of the past 15 years as a whole, and satisfactory to the democrats of Christian county. The findings of the expert show all the investigated republican officials during the 15 years short in their accounts, while nine democrats were given clean records, including the present sheriff, treasurer, county clerk and county superintendent. Twelve democrats in the 15 years were about \$125

short all together, an amount so small that the shortage can reasonably be accounted for by clerical errors either of the officials or the expert who examined the books. Thus it is shown how faithfully and honestly the democratic officials of Christian county have conducted the financial affairs of that county, vast and important as they have been. This is a record that the State Register feels sure cannot be surpassed. If equality by the officials, democratic or republican, of many counties in the state—perhaps by none during a period of 15 years. The people of Christian county are to be congratulated upon the wisdom they have shown in entrusting their affairs to faithful democratic officials. There is one feature in the report of the expert that we feel like explaining because unexplained it may lead some to a misapprehension of the facts. It was found that ex-Treasurer W. E. Seaton was \$857 short. Mr. Seaton is one of the wealthy and prominent farmers of Buckhart township. He is scrupulously honest and universally respected by those who know him. But being unlearned in the science of bookkeeping when elected treasurer, he appointed his nephew, E. M. Seaton, as deputy, and whatever responsibility attaches for the shortage rests upon the young man. W. E. Seaton has already paid \$816 of the shortage, and will pay the remainder. He is universally held blameless and has not suffered a particle in public esteem and confidence on account of this shortage. As the State Register has shown the record of the democratic officials of Christian county for the past 15 years has stood the test of investigation, and the party and its members who have held office come out with flying colors.

"The republicans who hoped to discredit the democratic party of that county by showing up gross faithlessness and dishonesty on the part of democratic officials have miserably failed, and should be themselves discredited by the record of the officials of their own party, which in comparison is far more open to the charges of corruption, unfaithfulness and incompetence. The investigation, intended to be a damage to the democratic party of Christian county, has proven a 'boomerang,' and the republican party will deservedly suffer the consequence, in a withdrawal of the public confidence temporarily secured by the charges made against good and honest democratic citizens and officials."

Drinking Men Barred.

The man who drinks cannot hold an appointive office under Gov. Hanly of Indiana. The governor declares that large corporations rule against men who have formed the liquor habit, and that this policy will be adopted in respect to positions within the gift of the executive. It is not a question of how little or how much a man drinks, but if he drinks at all he cannot receive recognition at the hands of the governor.

A man called on the governor in the interest of an applicant for an appointive office. He spoke of his friend's work for the party, his liberality in campaigns and local influence. The governor heard his visitor through.

"I should like to appoint your friend, and I have no doubt whatever of the merits of his services to the party or his ability to do the work if he did his best," was the reply. "I have noticed that railroads and other large business enterprises of recent years have ruled against men who drink. This is a good policy, I think, and so long as I am governor of the state the same policy shall be pursued in its business."

Our Greater Navy.

The war clouds which recently hovered over Europe, and from which those countries are rarely free, will cause every thoughtful American to give a glance of approval at the important additions now being made to our navy. The wonderful record of cures made in the past 50 years by the celebrated Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will also cause every thoughtful American to inquire whether he is as strong and healthy as he should be. If not, we urge a trial of the Bitters at once, for in this remedy you will surely find health and strength. It will purify the blood, tone up the digestive organs, steady the nerves and cure headache, bloating, indigestion, dyspepsia, constipation, cold, la grippe, female complaints, general debility and malaria, fever and ague. Try a bottle today.

A Dinner Invitation.

After a hearty meal a dose of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure will prevent an attack of indigestion. Kodol is a thorough digestant and a guaranteed cure for indigestion, dyspepsia, gas on the stomach, sour risings, bad breath and all stomach troubles. N. Watkins, Levens, Ky., says: "I can testify to the efficacy of Kodol in the cure of stomach trouble. I was afflicted with stomach trouble for 15 years and have taken six bottles of your Kodol Dyspepsia Cure, which has entirely cured me. The six bottles were worth \$1.00 to me. Sold by all druggists."

Sciatic Rheumatism Cured.

L. Wagner, wholesale druggist, Richmond, Va., says: "I had a fearful attack of sciatic rheumatism, was laid up almost two months, was fortunate enough to get Mystic Cure for Rheumatism. This cured me after doctor's prescriptions had failed to have any effect. I have also heard of fine results from others who have used it." Sold by Otto Grotjan, 1501 Second Avenue, Rock Island, Gust Schlegel & Son, 20 West Second street, Davenport.

DAILY SHORT STORY

MY ONE FACULTY.

[Original.]

I am an example of the value of possessing one faculty alone in a very high degree. As a boy at school I never could learn my lessons, and my father, who otherwise would have wished me to take a profession, put me on a ship as cabin boy, remarking that such a career was good enough for a dunce.

The captain took a fancy to me and tried to teach me navigation, but there were so many sines, cosines, arcs and angles about it to bewilder me that he soon gave it up in despair. So it seemed that I must continue to wait on the ship's company, clean the cabin windows and at meal-times assist the cook in the galley.

One morning when I was washing the breakfast dishes I noticed that the ship had been brought up to the wind, which was flapping in the sails. Soon after, having occasion to go to the after cabin, I saw the captain and the first mate standing looking at the rudder post. Though the tiller was lashed fast, the rudder swayed with the waves. This was because the rudder post was defective. As the rudder moved the post would twist, opening and closing huge cracks. Of course the ship was without steering. The captain looked anxious.

"Captain," I said, "when the cracks open all them with wedges, and your post will hold firm."

The captain turned and looked at me, astonished that a cabin boy should dare to advise him. Then he gruffly ordered the mate to go and get the wedges. They were driven in the cracks, iron bands were put around the post, and it held good till we reached port.

It had become evident that I possessed ingenuity.

The captain considered that by my suggestion I had saved the ship and on reaching home told the owners, who placed a thousand dollars in bank to be given me on my coming of age. My father was much perplexed at the story and, thinking that perhaps my teachers had been at fault, wished me to remain at home and try school again. But I hated books and took kindly to a roving life on the ocean. So my father, deciding that there must be some mistake about my ingenious suggestion, relapsed into the belief that I was still a dunce and the position of cabin boy quite good enough for me. But he was again doomed to revise his opinion when I returned from the next voyage.

We were in the China sea not far from the Malay peninsula, having aboard a cargo of oil. There is no part of the globe where piracy has been and is today more common. One evening just before sunset I went on deck and saw the captain and both mates examining with glasses a small vessel to the leeward, which was towing a good sized bark. Suddenly the smaller vessel drew away from the other and sailed toward us. Though she showed no flag, our captain knew her to be a pirate with a prize in tow, and, since we had nothing with which to defend ourselves except small arms, he had no doubt that as soon as the craft could reach us we would walk the plank.

"Captain," I said, "get up a barrel of oil and pour it over the decks, except the poop. Then get the men up there, with the arms, hoist the white flag and let them come aboard."

The captain stared at me for a moment, the color gradually coming to his cheeks with hope, then ordered not one barrel but a dozen brought up and stowed at different parts of the deck. The rattles, the bulwarks, every bit of surface was shining with oil. Then the men were gathered with the small arms on the "poop." By this time the "skull and crossbones" were raised on the pirate, and in a few minutes more she was within hailing distance. Since there was no appearance of resistance, she sent out the boats, loaded with copper colored villains, leaving only a small crew aboard. There was considerable sea on, and we were rolling heavily. One boat made for the bow, the others for the waist, and the crews climbed up on to the deck. The first man to reach it slid on to it from the oiled gangway. His feet shot out from under him, and he coasted into the scupperns. In a few moments some twenty men were sliding about as the ship rolled, while we, taking out our guns, which we had concealed under our jackets, opened fire. Before the pirates could get their legs we had peppered every one of them except those who had not left the boats. They, seeing the disaster, pulled for their vessel, but we picked them off as they rowed. The men on the pirate, terror stricken at what they could not understand, put their ship before the wind and sailed away.

We found some shoemaker's wax aboard, with which we covered the soles of our shoes. Then when he had heaved overboard the dead and wounded pirates we made sail for the ship they had left. She proved a fat prize, and we took her in tow. When we got home the captain and crew, after collecting the prize money, were so grateful to me for the suggestion that had saved their lives that they relinquished every dollar to me. When the money was deposited in bank, together with a handsome sum from the owner of our own ship, I had a fortune such as my father had never come near attaining.

It was suggested that I become an inventor, but I never could think of any ingenious expedient unless stimulated by some special happening, some great necessity. The consequence is I have lived on the interest of my prize money and have no desire to put myself in a way to make any more.

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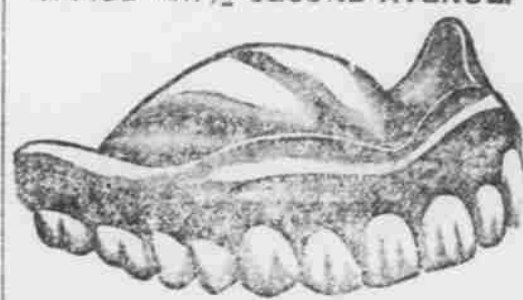
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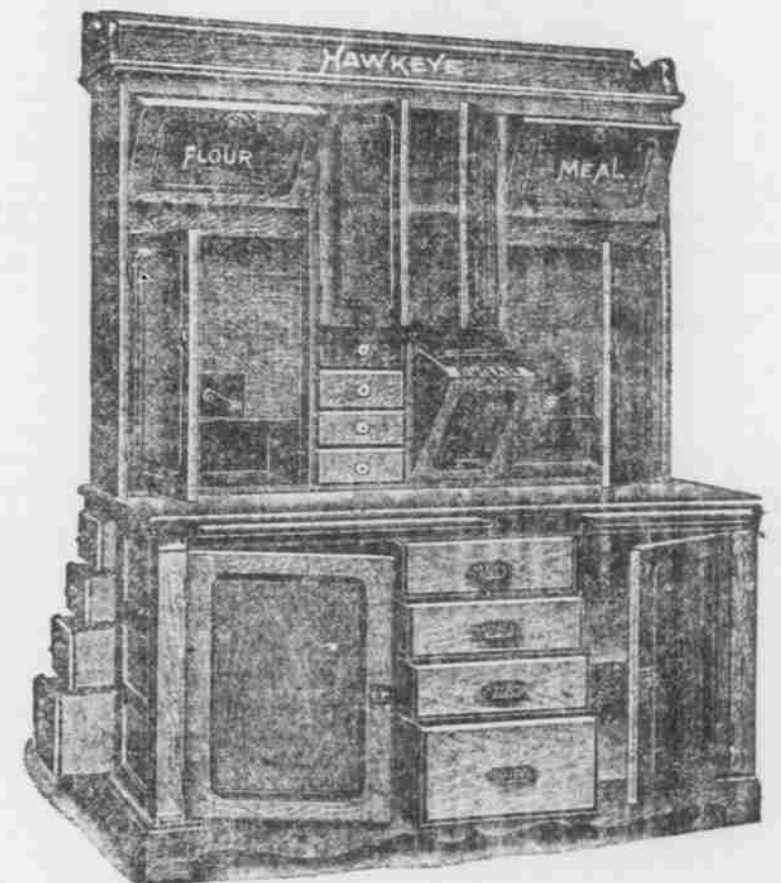
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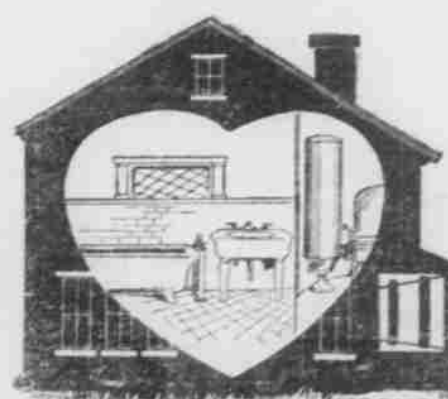
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